

A Generation that Knew Not Jehovah

Anahne TR 3/21/99

A GENERATION THAT KNEW NOT JEHOVAH ⁶ Judges 2:7-10

I. Intro:

Moses, Red Sea, Wilderness, Canaan, God with them

A. Background of text: Joshua had died. Israel in possession of Canaan. Generation succeeding Joshua's knew not God.

B. Only two generations removed from Joshua!

1. Their apostasy is described in vs. 11 & 12

C. Characteristics of this apostasy:

1. Ignorant of God's ways.

a. Copied god of those around them.

b. Judges 21:25. Did that which was right in their own eyes.

Each one became his own authority as standard

2. Forsook the God who had saved them.

a. Inappreciative of God's mercy.

b. Forgot grand accounts of Israel's deliverance.

3. Therefore causing God's wrath to come upon them.

D. Establishes the fact that God's people can apostatize - define

600 yrs 1. The Dark ages - 1000 years to 1600's

2. Christian Church - 1830

3. Apostasy in world today - *No longer depend upon God's Word.*

NEW CLASS SUBJECT MATTER

E. Church flourishing today, at this location, but what of coming times?

1. Where are the churches of Jerusalem, Corinth, Ephesus, Galatia, Antioch and Rome?

2. What assurance do we have that the church will survive here?

3. What of the second generation removed from us?

Samphel

II. Implications of Israel's apostasy:

A. Responsibility of the preceding generations:

1. Priests:

a. To read law regularly. Deut. 31:9-11.

b. Ill: Boy of seven would hear the complete law again at fourteen, twenty-one, twenty-eight, thirty-five, etc.

c. Hard to conceive of ignorance to God's law if this was done.

2. Elders of the people:

a. Governing body from which the Sanhedrin was appointed.

Ruled synagogues where people came to worship & hear law read.

b. These should have demanded the law be read and observed.

3. Parents:

a. To teach children at home also. Deut. 4:9,10.

b. Failure would produce ignorance.

4. People themselves:

a. Should have desired law of God read.

b. Owed allegiance only to God.

c. Followed, rather, their own impulses.

B. These all, then, had failed in their responsibilities.

III. Our responsibility under Christ: (Practical application)

A. Teachers of the Word:

1. To be loyal. 2 Tim. 4:1-4

2. What heaven demands. Gal. 1:8-9

3. Be above pleasing men. Gal. 1:10

4. One who teaches truth is truly a friend.

B. Elders of the church (& older men not qualified to hold office)

1. Heed the flock's needs. (Tend - 1 Pet. 5:2)

2. Watch innovation (Ill. apparent "harmless" intro. of musical instruments into buildings & finally into the worship itself)

3. Exercise the oversight. (Some are fearful to do so)

4. Be an example. 1 Pet. 5:3

C. Christians parents:

1. Teach children. Eph. 6:4

2. Meaning of nurture. (training)

3. Need of proper example in life and attitude toward the church.

(All some children hear about the church is criticism)

D. Christians as a whole:

1. Be steadfast. 1 Cor. 15:58

2. Demand truth, shun evil and all that might bring apostasy.

3. Desire to please God above self and others.

IV. Conclusion:

How God's law to be observed:

(Israel), Deut. 4:1-2; (Christian), 1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18,19

The Coming generation's knowledge of God's ways depends on this generation accepting its responsibility.